

REMARKS

1. The examiner did not consider the information disclosure statements filed April 14, 2004 and June 24, 2004 on the grounds that the applicant did not provide copies of cited references which are foreign patent documents or non-patent literature. Such copies are not required under 37 CFR 1.98(d) because such copies were provided in the parent patent applications identified in the information disclosure statements of April 14 and June 24, 2004 in a manner prescribed in 37 CFR 1.98(d). Enclosed are copies of the two information disclosure statements and the cited references which are foreign patent documents or non-patent literature. Consideration of the information disclosure statements is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be required for the information disclosure statements because the pertinent requirements were satisfied on April 14 and June 24 of 2004. However, an authorization to charge the deposit account 50-2257 for the information disclosure statements is hereby provided should a fee be required for the information disclosure statements.

2. Claims 32, 34, 38, 40 were objected to for not spelling out the term FIFO. The applicant would like to avoid spelling out this term because this term is well known (and in fact is not spelled out in the specification). Using this term without spelling it out was common before the effective filing date. The following U.S. patents use this term in the claims without spelling it out: U.S. patent no. 6,307,860 issued October 23, 2001 to Joffe et al. (claim 18); U.S. patent no. 5,465,181 issued November 7, 1995 to Yoshinaka (claim 2); U.S. patent no. 5,353,402 issued October 4, 1994 to Lau (claim 2).

3. Claims 11, 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. patent no. 5,487,170 to Bass et al.

Claim 11 is directed to allocating resources to tasks that process data units. After "any one of the tasks has finished accessing any one of the resources in processing a data unit, said one of the tasks does not get access to the same resource until after every other one of the tasks has finished accessing the resource". This recitation is supported by the applicant's Fig. 4 (Tasks 0 and 1 accessing the resources Request FIFO, Command FIFO,

Status FIFO) and the specification page 19, lines 16-18 (“Task 0 will not be allowed to read the request FIFO again until Task 1 has read the request FIFO”).

Claim 11 is amended to recite that a resource access is subdivided into a number of operations including attempting to access the resource (paragraph (1) of Claim 11) and accessing the resource (paragraph (3)). If the task attempts to access the resource again, the task is not allowed to access the resource until every other task has attempted to access the resource and has accessed the resource (last paragraph of Claim 11).

The amendment is supported by Fig. 7 and the specification, page 25, lines 14-22, and page 26, line 18 through page 27, line 5. A task’s attempt to access a resource is indicated by signals *mfsel* [x] and *ffrd* (page 25, lines 20-21). If any one task T1 (*i.e.* Task 0 or Task 1) has accessed the resource, the resource becomes owned by the other task T2 (page 25, lines 14-19) even if the task T2 has not attempted to access the resource. If the task T1 attempts to access the resource again (as indicated by *mfsel* [x] and *ffrd*) before the task T2 attempted to access the resource, the task T1 becomes suspended.

In some embodiments, this scheme advantageously synchronizes access to different resources so that the request for one data frame would not be erroneously associated with commands or status related to a different data frame, as explained in the specification page 4 line 20 through page 5 line 24.

The claims are not limited to the embodiments or advantages discussed herein.

2. The examiner states that the feature of a task not getting access to the same resource “until after every other one of the tasks has finished accessing the resource” is disclosed in Bass’ Claim 8. Claim 8 is directed to granting resource access in response to “requests for access”. There is no indication that multiple requests for access from the same task would not be granted if no request has arrived from another task as recited in Claim 11. Thus, Bass does not teach the feature recited in the last paragraph of Claim 11, no provides any reason or motivation for this feature.

Similar reasons apply to Claim 13.

3. Claims 12, 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bass in view of U.S. patent no. 5,167,022 to Bahr et al. Claims 30, 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

over Bass in view of U.S. patent no. 4,847,751 to Nakade et al. Claims 31-33, 37-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bass in view of Nakade and U.S. patent no. 5,386,517 to Sheth et al. Claims 34, 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bass in view of Nakade, Sheth and U.S. patent no. 5,592,654 to Djakovic.

Claims 12, 30-40 each depend from Claim 11 or 13. Bahr, Nakade, Sheth and Djakovic were cited as teaching features recited in these dependent claims. These features do not overcome the deficiency of Bass as discussed hereinabove with respect to Claims 11 and 13.

4. New Claims 41, 42 depend respectively from Claims 11, 13. Claims 41, 42 are supported by the specification page 5 lines 7-24, wherein the resources read on FIFOs and "the order of frame addresses in the request FIFO corresponds to the order of commands in the command FIFO" (lines 18-21).

5. If a fee is required for this submission, please charge the fee or any underpayment thereof, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 50-2257.

Any questions regarding this case can be addressed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Certificate of Transmission: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) via the USPTO's electronic filing system on March 24, 2008.

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